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About the Cover and Issue

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Intersections is a publication by and largely for the academic communities of the twenty-seven institutions that comprise the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU). Each issue reflects on the **intersection** of faith, learning, and teaching within Lutheran higher education. It is published by the NECU, and has its home in the Presidential Center for Faith and Learning at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, the institutional sponsor of the publication. *Intersections* extends and enhances discussions fostered by the annual Vocation of the Lutheran College Conference, together lifting up the vocation of Lutheran colleges and universities. It aims to raise the level of awareness among faculty, staff, and administration about the Lutheran heritage and church-relatedness of their institutions, especially as these **intersect** with contemporary challenges, opportunities, and initiatives.

About the Cover and Issue

A few years ago, I started noticing just how elaborately and creatively students were decorating the tops of the caps they wore on graduation day—lots of shout-outs to mom and dad, some heartfelt appreciation for the campus coffee shop, even some last minute, self-effacing appeals for employment. Because the 2017 Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference theme was “Vocation for Life,” I asked recent graduates to submit photos of their caps as potential cover art for this, the accompanying issue of *Intersections*. There were dozens of entries, but the editorial board chose “The Journey Begins,” by Danya Tazyeen (class of 2016), to be featured here. Congratulations Danya!

The 2017 summer conference and lead articles in this issue deal with vocational reflection as a lifelong journey, with different vocations for different periods of life, and with how Lutheran colleges and universities can educate students for the many callings that they will need to hear and heed. Also included is two authors who think about vocation throughout the lifespan from different religious perspectives. A review of Mark Tranvik’s *Martin Luther and the Called Life*, as well as two essays “outside the theme” round out the issue. I hope you find the issue challenging and informative. As always, please contact me to discuss ways that you might contribute to this conversation within *Intersections*.

JASON MAHN, Editor